

Mime-Version: 1.0

Date: Thu, 7 May 1998 10:15:46 -0700

To: Harold_Varmus@nih.gov

From: Paul Berg <pberg@cmgm.stanford.edu>

Abolishing Material Transfer Agreements: A New Policy

Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) have become increasingly onerous barriers to the free and open exchange of scientific information and materials. Seeking to return to the era where collegiality and sharing take precedence over commercial considerations, the institutions identified below have adopted the following policy. Subject to obligations we have to existing research sponsors and licensees, MTAs will no longer be used for the exchange of biological materials between our faculties and their academic and institutional colleagues elsewhere and, where assured that such materials will not be used in commercial processes, with scientists in the commercial sector as well. Recipients of biological materials are expected not to pass them on to others without the consent of the distributor and to acknowledge their source in resulting publications and presentations. Furthermore, we shall discourage our investigators from entering into sponsored agreements that controvert this policy. We encourage other institutions and private sector research enterprises to adopt a similar practice.

Paul Berg
Cahill Professor of Cancer Research
and Biochemistry
Director of Beckman Center
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California, 94305
Tel. #(650) 723-6170
Fax #(650) 725-4951
Email pberg@cmgm.stanford.edu